rates of cess on tea, under sub-section (3) of Section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1947/97)]

(iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Commerce, under sub-section (3) of Section 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947, alongwith a Statement giving reasons of delay:—

(1) G.S.R. No. 411, dated the 9th September, 1995, publishing the Rubber Board Employees (Conduct) Amendment) Rules, 1995.

(2) G.S.R. No. 490, dated the 9th November, 1996, publishing rules further to amend the Rubber Board Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1958.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1948/97]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) (a) Forty-second Annual Report of the Tea Board Calcutta for the year 1995-96.

(b) Annual Accounts of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, and the Audit Report thereon.

(c) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

(d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1949/97]

III. (i) (a) General Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board, Bangalore for the year 1995-96 and the Audit Report thereon.

(b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-2108/97]

(ii) (a) Pool Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 1994-95 and the Audit Report thereon.

(b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-2109/97]

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the First Report of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

RE: DEMAND TO CLARIFY THE FATE OF RESERVATION FOR WOMEN BILL

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I wanted to seek a clarification. Madam, the hon. Law Minister is here, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here and the hon. Jaipal Reddyji is here. Can they please tell us what happened to the Women's Bill? Madam, only three days are left for this Session...*(Interruptions)*... The hon. Law Minister and the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister are not listening.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jena...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, maybe, deliberately they are not listening...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Members are trying to attract your attention.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, we want to know what happened to the Women's Bill? There are only three more days for this Session. Madam, they were supposed to have an all-party meeting. Even that has gone out of the agenda...*(Interruptions)*... We want to know what happened to the Women's Bill. Is the Government going to bring the Women's Bill or not...*(interruptions)*... I have one more suggestion. Let them bring the Bill and if Members want to vote against it, let them vote against it...*(interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Yes. Let them vote against it. We are ready to face the consequences...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Please tell us. (*Interruptions*) Otherwise, we will be waiting for a consensus till the next millennium. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The lady Members of this House are very active. They do not make any gadbad at any time. They have the right to know about the legislation which was promised on the floor of the House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHRURY: No court would rule that the Government can take a decision, leaving out fifty percent of the population. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY); Madam, may I respond? Before the Session concludes, we will consult leaders of all parties.....

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What is there to consult? There is nothing left to be consulted, as far as I know.. You please anwer me first as to what you are going to consult. Never mind the other side of Parliament. Tell me first.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why not them?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: They cannot give this sort of a bureaucratic reply. They have to answer me, as our party is part of the Goverrnment. Let them tell me first. (*Interruption*)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Don't bring your quarrels on the floor of the House (*Interruptions*) Let them settle it among themselves. (*Interruption*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: These are diversionary tectics.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, one thing. They have been consulting the leaders of political parties for the last seven months. Are these leaders in Alaska or somewhere else, Madam? What is this? Let them bring the Bill. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Jaipalji, I hope we don't have to wait till the next millennium to get this Bill passed.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan is forgetting her own observation when she said at the very beginning that the Government does not appear to be interested in consulting the parties. It is not true.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I never said that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We are going to...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She did not say that. She only said that the Government was not serious about bringing forward the legislation.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I would like to say that the Government is serious about the Women's Bill. We are making efforts to introduce the Bill in the current Session itself. We will also consult...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was already introduced in the other House. It is lying in the other House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is there. Only that Rajya Sabha has to pass it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, the Bill was not introduced. Only the Report of the Joint Select Committee was placed on the Table of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Jaipalji, the Bill was first introduced there and then it was sent to the Joint Select Commdittee. The report has also come. You were not in the Government then.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: That is it. He was in transit (*Interruptions*) Madam, this is a

very patronising attitude towards women. It is very condescending. We know there is amused tolerance all around the House. I can't imagine as to what is left to be consulted. These consultations have been going on for a long time. What is there left to be consulted? (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, we have seen some disturbing news in the papers that it is being contemplated at the highest level in the Government to reduce the percentage to be given to women.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What is the sanctity for the Report of the Joint Select Committee? (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, let them bring the Bill. Let them bring the Bill tomorrow or the day after. Let us vote on it. Let us see. We don't mind if it is defeated. At least, we will know where we stand.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, since she made a point, I would like to respond. There is no proposal being contemplated at any level to reduce the percentage.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: That is not enough.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The problem is of the time (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The question is: where is the intention for them to bring forward this Bill? Let them show it. There is a certain method to go about this. They have to apply their mind to it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Madam, seven months back this Bill was introduced. As soon as the Session ended, the then Prime Minister announced in the press that women should be content with 20 per cent. It is on record. He is a member of the ruling party. (*Interruptions*) I would like the hon. Minister to react to the statement made by Mr. Deve Gowda. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, please ask them to come back and tell us tomorrow, at least, as to what is happening.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have to take up so many other things. (*Interruptions*) आपकी क्या प्राब्लम है मल्होत्रा जी?

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे लीडर आॅफ अपोज़ीशन ने उस दिन भी यह सवाल उठाया था कि प्राईम-मिनिस्टर के रूट पर काफी मुश्किल पड़ती है, बहुत दिक्कत होती है और प्राईम-मिनिस्टर ने हाऊस को ऐश्योर किया था कि वह इस मामले को देखेंगे और इस मामले में कोई दिक्कत नहीं होने देंगे। कल टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया की खबर के मुताबिक.....(**व्यवधान**)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: This is another issue. Please, let me raise my issue. This is a privilege issue or something.

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: आपने पहले इशू रेज़ किया तो मैंने मना नहीं किया.....(**व्यवधान**)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: He has not got the permission. I have the Chairman's permission to raise the Cauvery issue.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not taking much time. It is about someone who was beaten up. He is only referring to that.

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: मैडम्, प्राइम मिनिस्टर के रूप पर कल मार्टिन मैसी नाम का आदमी आ गया और रूट पर आने के बाद पुलिस ने उसके चार दांत तोड़ दिए, उसको मार-पीटा, उसके साथ वहशियाना/जानवराना तरीके से बर्ताव किया।.....(**व्यवधान**)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, what is the sanctity of our asking your permission to raise an issue? We can just raise it out of turn. I asked for your permission. What is the sanctity of your permission. (*Interruptions*)

Madam, let there be a commitment on

the Women's Bill... Let the Government say something.

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: अगर पुलिस इस तरीके से प्राईम मिनिस्टर के रास्ते में आने वाले किसी भी आदमी के साथ यह व्यवहार कर सकती है तो फिर प्राईम मिनिस्टर की एश्यूरेंस का क्या हुआ, मैं जानना चाहता हूं और जिन्होंने यह वहशियाना हरकत की है उसके खिलाफ क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मैडम्, आप इनको डायरेक्ट करें।....**(व्यवधान)**

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will find it out... (*Interruptions*) Order.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Let them commit something on the Women's Bill. Let them come back tomorrow and tell us something... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, we are tired of this. They are behaving as if they are doing us a favour. This is our right.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, the PM is out of station.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, who is deciding about it? What is this?

उपसभापति: रेणुका जी, आप बैठेंगी जरा।

This is a serious matter. I would like to bring it to the notice of the ... (*Interruptions*) Renukaji, please, one second. Let me convey to the Minister what the Members have been talking about.

The Government should come forward and explain the position, what their difficulty is, because I don't think that it looks very nice on the part of the Members of the House to raise it everyday. It is not a mockery. It is not a teasing tactic. But this is a serious thing. If there is a commitment of the Government, what difficulty is the Government facing? It should come clear about it before the House because I hate to stop them. I hate to creat a trouble in the house. I cannot help it because I feel that the position has to be cleared. Otherwise, this stalemate will go on. With great difficulty, I am persuading the lady Members of Parliament to continue to work. They could have boycotted Parliament, and they could have created some other serious things. We are trying to bring co-operation between the Government and those people who are sentimental to whom something has been promised.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I want to make it clear that the Government is quite keen on the Bill. It has had the first round of consultations.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope it does not go into a *choohe ka bill*. It seems that way.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Madam, Let them come prepared after consulting the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Jaipalji, don't say anything now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Prime Minister had the first round of consultations. The consultations were inconclusive. The consultations will be resumed again in this session itself.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now that is an assurance.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Please, Madam, let me clarify this. The hon. Minister has come just now. So, he does not know it. He was an hon. Member in the last session. Surely, he knows that the business of consultation was over and done with. A Special Committee was constituted, and it tabled its report.

I want the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to say what the sanctity is of constituting a Committee and that of having its report tabled if you have to start from square one every time the Government changes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a story. When they want to avoid something, they say that it has gone to a committee. When asked how long the committee will work, they say, "Till the complainant dies." So the matter ends.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: We will not oblige them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am quite sure that the lady Members are not going to die in their efforts.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is a long time now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We are aware of the fact that the Committee has already submitted its report.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: मैडम्, मैंने जो रेज़ किया था इसके बारे में कुछ डायरेक्शन दे दें। ...(व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Jenaji, there is a complaint that somebody has been beaten.

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: मैडम्, यह कह रहा था कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर के रास्ते में आने पर मार्टिन मैसो को पुलिस ने पीटकर उसके चार दांत तोड़ दिए और उसे दस्तखत करा लिए। वहां पर उसके दस्तखत करा दिये। उसके बाद वह लगातार उसको पीटते रहे, उसे अंधेरे में ले गये। ऐसा बहशियाना तरीका तो दुनिया में किसी जगह नहीं होता। इतना ह्यूमैन राइट्स वॉएलेशन प्राइम मिनिस्टर के रास्ते में आने पर होता है। ...(व्यवधान)

उपसभापति: अच्छा अभी आप बैठिए। P.M. has made his own commitment on the floor of the House that he does not approve that thing. He has told Mr. Sikander Bakht last week that he will see.....(*Interruptions*) He will try to find out. They will find out.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Action should be taken against the policemen.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: When I rose against the policemen, they complained against me.

RE. CAUVERY WATERS DISPUTE

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to raise a very important issue. That is the issue which we raised several times on the floor of this House. It relates to the implementation of the Cauvery Award. Everbody knows the background. I just want to state.....(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have enough Special Mentions. I am not allowing any other name now.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I just want to state my demand very clearly.

We all know that it has been a long pending dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. After the matter went to the Supreme Court on 25th June, 1991, after the Special Tribunal, which has been set up under the Inter-State Waters Dispute Act, gave its award for a certain percentage of water to be released to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry every month by Karnataka and 205 TMC to be released as an interim measure, since 1991 till today this Award has not been implemented at all.

Madam, with great respect to all my colleagues from the other State, Karnataka has seen to it that the Award is not implemented. Then Tamil Nadu went to the Supreme Court and Karnataka passed an ordinance nullifying the Award of the Tribunal. All that is history.

When after five rounds of talks between the new Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu had failed, when Tamil Nadu went to the Supreme Court to ask for the implementation of the Award, on 9th April the Union Government had undertaken before the Supreme Court that the Award, which had already been notified will now be implemented. The Union Government has agreed to implement the Award. The Union Government has said that a draft plan for implementation will be circulated to the States and within eight weeks the matter will be finalised and placed before Parliament for approval. Of course, in the meanwhile, the Karnataka Chief Minister has said that he will examine the draft plan and, if it is not found